



**Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Technical Advisory Committee

**Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Nov. 21, 2008 McCloskey Conference Room 135, City Hall**

*Technical Advisory Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department.*

**Attendance**

**Technical Advisory Committee:** John Collisson (Monroe Co. Highway), Jim Ude (INDOT), Laura Haley (Bloomington ITS), Gregg Zody (Monroe Co. Planning), Andrea Roberts (Bloomington Public Works), Adrian Reid (Bloomington Engineering), Emmanuel Nsonwu (INDOT) John Carter (MCCSC), Dave Williams (City Parks) and Jane Fleig (Bloomington Utilities).

**Others:** Joyce Williams (Bloomington Engineering), Josh Desmond (MPO Staff), and Raymond Hess (MPO Staff).

- I. Call to Order** – Adrian Reid called the meeting to order.
- II. Approval of Minutes:**
  - A. October 24, 2008** – Tom Micuda moved to approve. Jane Fleig seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.
- III. Communications from the Chair** – There was no report.
- IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees**
  - A. Updates on MPO related projects**

John Carter reported that MCCSC has received several bids for their Safe Routes to School project at Batchelor. Adrian Reid stated the preliminary field check meeting for the Atwater/Henderson project went well. They anticipate another public meeting in January concerning the sidepath and road improvement project on S. Rogers St. from Rockport to near Country Club Rd. John Collisson reported the letting of right-of-way acquisition is finished at Smith and Rogers. Vernal Pike Phase II has completed right-of-way acquisition of 7 of 40 parcels. They are reviewing consultant proposals for the Mt. Tabor Rd. project. The Karst Farm trail field check plan has been submitted. The County is conducting proposal interviews for the Fullerton Pike project. Dave Williams reported that the B-Line Trail paving is ahead of schedule. Ray Hess said that MPO staff had met with INDOT concerning the development of the statewide Transportation Improvement Program. He will be reviewing the information with several Local Public Agencies (LPAs) to make sure the information is correct. Jim Ude said INDOT has a field check on the Monroe St. to Kinser Pike bypass project in December.
- V. Reports from the MPO Staff**
  - A. FY 2009 First Quarter Progress Report**

Mr. Hess introduced the progress report for the committee's review. In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, the MPO and LPAs spent nearly \$80,000 of which \$63,000 will be reimbursed.
  - B. North Campus Area Study**

Mr. Hess said that that IU is close to entering into a contract with Gorove/Slade, the transportation consultant working on the IU Master Plan. MPO and City staff reviewed the

initial contract and made some suggestions which were incorporated. They are looking to start work soon. Josh Desmond reported that IU's Master Plan is expected to be finished by February or March of 2009.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Complete Streets Policy (*Recommendation Requested*)**

Mr. Hess introduced the memo concerning the policy. MPO staff has been working with the City of Bloomington, Monroe County and the Town of Ellettsville to identify any problem issues. Included in the packet is Version 5 which has been significantly reorganized from previous drafts. Three significant changes have been made: 1) Mention of design speed was removed; 2) "Applicability" was narrowed to exclude resurfacing projects and projects which have not yet completed the preliminary field check or more than 30% complete with design; and 3) The Stop Work Order section was significantly reworked whereby the Policy Committee will determine if a project is still Complete Streets compliant if there is a major change to a project. Mr. Hess stated this version was approved by the CAC. Tom Micuda moved that the TAC support the Complete Streets Policy as presented by staff and documented in the packet. Gregg Zody seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **B. Rail Crossing Resolution (*Recommendation Requested*)**

Mr. Hess explained the City is interested in establishing a new at-grade railroad crossing at Johnson Ave./Basswood Dr. Joyce Williams said that a controlled crossing is needed soon since another apartment complex has been built and is causing traffic pressure on the local street. Mr. Hess noted the MPO has no authority over the railroad since they own and maintain their right-of-way. However, the MPO has gotten involved to show community support. Ms. Williams said a decision by the railroad can be petitioned to INDOT.

Mr. Hess said that IU is interested in closing the crossing at Walnut Grove and establishing a new crossing at Woodlawn Ave. This would provide better connectivity, especially for buses. Mr. Desmond said IU is in the process of petitioning the City to vacate right-of-way at 11<sup>th</sup> and Cottage Grove. IU has plans to improve pedestrian connectivity, including a pedestrian underpass at Walnut Grove.

Mr. Hess said the CAC supported the crossing at Johnson/Basswood. However, they withheld a recommendation on the Woodlawn crossing until after the North Campus Area Study is complete. This was largely the result of concerns raised by residents of the Old Northeast neighborhood which questioned if Woodlawn Ave. would serve the community better than a Dunn St. crossing. Mr. Micuda said he supports the Basswood/Johnson crossing but is reluctant to fully endorse Woodlawn at this time because of the CAC's concern. Jane Fleig made a motion to support future railroad crossings in Monroe County including a proposed crossing at Basswood/Johnson St. and a proposed crossing swap in the IU campus area - the removed Walnut Grove crossing for a Woodlawn or Dunn crossing - pending the outcome of the N. Campus Area Study. Gregg Zody seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant Application Review (*Recommendation Requested*)**

Mr. Hess introduced a memo concerning the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant application. The MPO currently has \$716,000 in HSIP funding. One grant application for HSIP funding was received in November 2008. The City of Bloomington wants to improve the intersection of Atwater and Henderson. The project will include signalization, roadway realignment, new sidewalks, stormwater infrastructure, improved geometrics and new signage. The amount requested is \$571,875; the local match is \$165,000 for a total of \$730,000. The benefit/cost ratio is estimated at 8.74. The project location is considered eligible by crash data analysis. Joyce Williams reviewed the current progress of the design of this project. The City believes negotiation of this intersection will be much clearer to all users. Mr. Micuda asked about a public meeting concerning the Atwater/Henderson project on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Williams said there was some opposition to the left turn lane. Mr. Reid noted that modeling showed that without the left turn lane, traffic could back up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. intersection. Mr. Hess said that the CAC recommended awarding this grant. One of the CAC members complimented the workshop as very informative and well-handled. Mr. Micuda moved that the TAC recommend in favor of this HSIP application to the Policy Committee. Jane Fleig seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**VIII. Communications from Committee Members (*non-agenda items*)**

**A. Topic Suggestions for future agendas**

**IX. Upcoming Meetings**

**A. MPO Winter Mixer! – December 10, 2008 at 12:00pm (McCloskey Room)**

**B. Policy Committee – January 9, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**

**C. Technical Advisory Committee – January 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. (McCloskey Room)**

**D. Citizens Advisory Committee – January 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)**

**Adjournment**

*These minutes were approved by the Technical Advisory Committee at their regular meeting held on February 4, 2009 (JFW).*